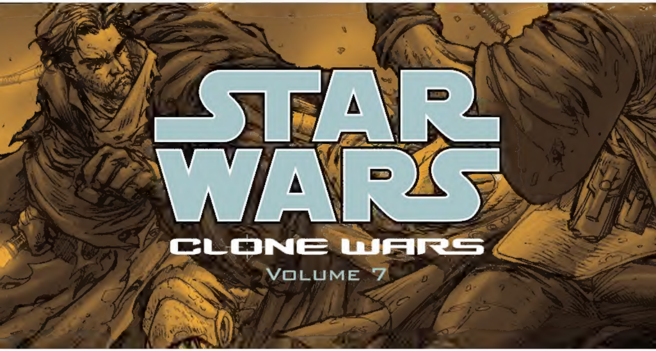
STAR WARS®

CLONE WARS

VOLUME 7



When They Were Brothers


STAR WARS
CLONE WARS
VOLUME 7



The events in this story
begin five months before
Revenge of the Sith.



When They Were Brothers

Dark Horse Books™

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STAR WARS: CLONE WARS VOLUME 7

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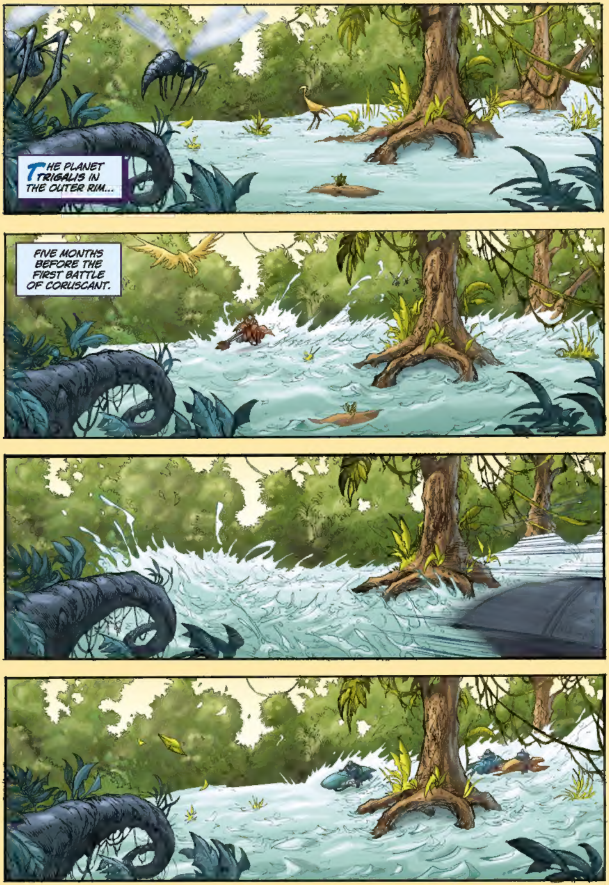


illustration by BRIAN CHING and BRAD ANDERSON

Obsession

Approximately five months before the events in *Revenge of the Sith*...

script by **Haden Blackman**
art by **Brian Ching**

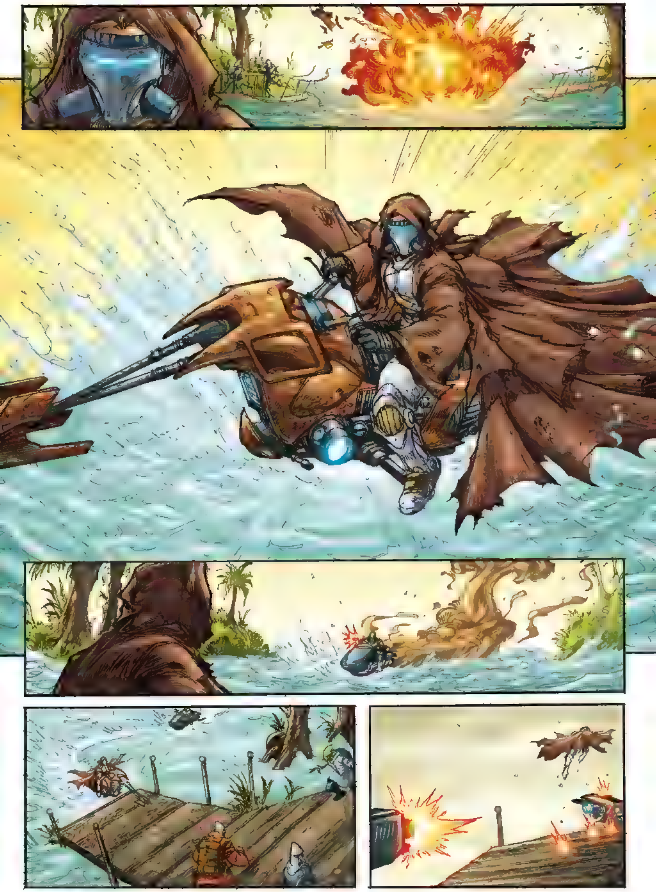

THE PLANET TRIGALIS IN THE OUTER RIM...
FIVE MONTHS BEFORE THE FIRST BATTLE OF CORUSCANT.


beep...
OH, SITH SP --
beep... beep...


THAT'S SIX SWOOPS HE'S TRASHED! WHATEVER HE'S CARRYIN' CAN'T BE WORTH THAT MUCH!
HE'S GOT A LASER SWORD. I SEEN IT.
AND THAT'LL BUY US A WHOLE FLEET OF SWOOPS!
STANG! HE'S HEADIN' FOR THE CITY!
THEN GET READY TO FIGHT OVER HIS CORPSE.




MOVE!
WE CAN'T MAKE IT!




YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME PASS THROUGH THE SWAMPS UNCHALLENGED.
SHUT UP AND DIE.


MORE THIEVES?
LOCAL TAX COLLECTORS. YOUR CREDITS AND YOUR WEAPON. WE WANT 'EM.
SO DID HE.
BLACK SUN ASSASSINS IS A WHOLE LOT MORE DANGEROUS THAN A LITTLE SWAMP RAT, I THINK.
LET'S FIND OUT


CRACH!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SLIP INTO TOWN QUIETLY.


IT COULDN'T BE HELPED, MASTER SECURA. THE SWAMPS WERE MORE DANGEROUS THAN I ANTICIPATED.
NOT THAT I THINK ANYONE AROUND HERE WILL NOTICE.
BY THE FORCE, OBI-WAN... YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON LEAVE! HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU'VE SLEPT?
MASTER WINDU MAY NOT HAVE ASSIGNED MY CURRENT MISSION, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO THE WAR EFFORT. ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME OR NOT?
OF COURSE.
WELCOME TO NEW CORONET, TARNISHED JEWEL OF THE TRIGALIS SYSTEM.
THE JEDI ARCHIVES STILL IDENTIFY THIS... SLUM AS A TRADING POST.
BUT THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY LEGITIMATE BUSINESS HERE IN DECADES. NOW, IT'S A PLEASURE PIT FOR ANY MURDERER, PIRATE, SPICE FIEND, AND GAMBLER WITH TIES TO BLACK SUN.


AND THE WHOLE TOWN IS RUN FROM HERE, BY A BLACK SUN KILLER NAMED XIST.
AAYLA, I DON'T CARE ABOUT BLACK SUN...
I KNOW YOUR MISSION, OBI-WAN. XIST IS PROVIDING WEAPONS -- AND INTEL -- TO THE CONFEDERACY.
HE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU WHATEVER YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS.
OBI-WAN ... IF I TOLD YOU THAT HE'S INCREDIBLY WELL-DEFENDED AND THAT HIS SKILLS WITH A VIBROWHIP RIVAL YOURS WITH A LIGHTSABER --
-- WOULD YOU RECON-SIDER ALLOWING ME TO FIGHT AT YOUR SIDE?
NO. MASTER YODA MADE IT CLEAR THAT MY MISSION COULD NOT ENDANGER YOURS.
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP THUS FAR, BUT I'M ON MY OWN HERE.
THEN AT LEAST CALL IN ANAKIN. I KNOW THAT HE'S BEEN ALLOWED LEAVE AS WELL--
BUT I'M SURE WHATEVER HE'S DOING CAN'T BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN HELPING YOU.
OH, I'M QUITE CERTAIN HE'D RATHER NOT BE DISTURBED...


NABOO.
ANI! YOUR FACE...
WHAT HAPPENED?
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOTHING. BUT I HAVE INCREDIBLE NEWS...
...WE HAVE TEN DAYS ALL TO OUR-SELVES.


NEW CORONET, TRIGALIS.
KRAA-BOOOM!
LORD XIST! WE HAVE INTRUDERS!
REALLY?!? IS THAT WHY THERE ARE EXPLOSIONS RIPPING THROUGH MY FORTRESS?

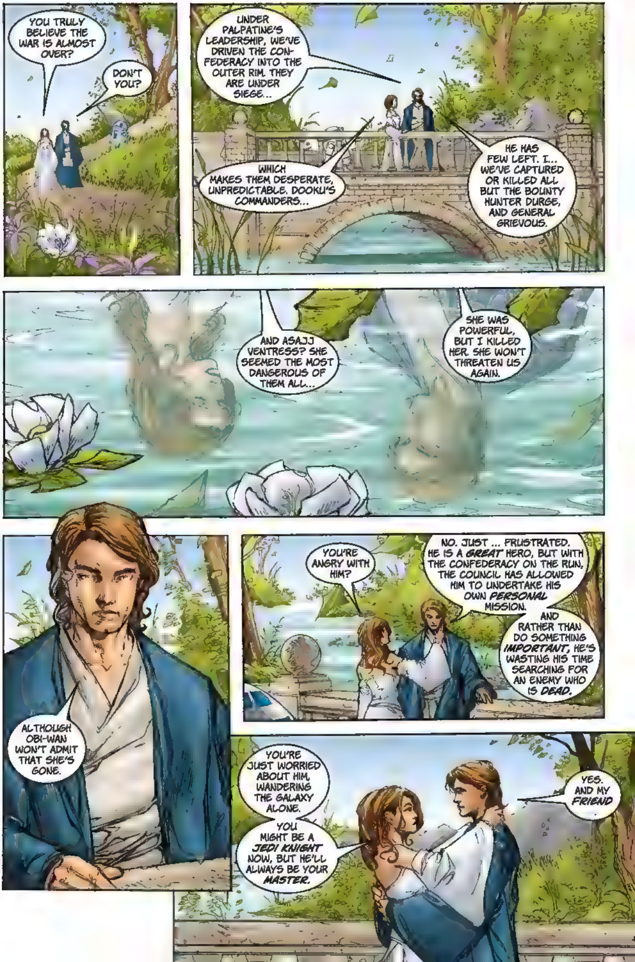

WHY WASN'T AN ALARM SOUNDED EARLIER?
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE... AN ARMY DOES NOT SNEAK INTO NEW CORONET WITHOUT NOTICE...
NOT AN ARMY, LORD XIST. JUST A GENERAL IN THE REPUBLIC ARMY, SEEKING INFORMATION FROM NEW CORONET'S MOST RELIABLE SOURCE.
A JEDI SEEKING ONLY DEATH, I THINK.


I HAVE BEEN TO THE LOWEST REACHES OF CORUSCANT...
I'VE SEEN THE SCAVENGERS THERE, MISSING LIMBS AND SPORTING LIGHTSABER BURNS.
I'VE BEEN TO NAUTON IV, WHERE MASTER RUATI WAS BEHEADED BY AN UNKNOWN ASSASSIN...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!? I'VE NEVER BEEN TO NAUTON IV...
AAAIGH!



NNGH... AND I'VE... I'VE SEEN THE RITUALS ON MAUK...
WHERE... THEY DEDICATE THEIR SACRIFICES TO A PALE GODDESS... OF DEATH.
I KNOW SHE'S ALIVE!
WHO --? UGH!
OOF!
WHERE IS SHE?!?
WHERE IS...
...ASAJJ VENTRESS?


OKAY,
KOFF!
JEDI
GENERAL...
I TOO HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT COMMANDER VENTRESS IS ALIVE. I DON'T BELIEVE THEY ARE TRUE, BUT YOU'VE BESTED ME. I'LL TELL YOU WHATEVER I KNOW.


YOU TRULY BELIEVE THE WAR IS ALMOST OVER?
DON'T YOU?
UNDER PALPATINE'S LEADERSHIP, WE'VE DRIVEN THE CONFEDERACY INTO THE OUTER RIM. THEY ARE UNDER SIEGE...
WHICH MAKES THEM DESPERATE, UNPREDICTABLE. DOOKU'S COMMANDERS...
HE HAS FEW LEFT. I... WE'VE CAPTURED OR KILLED ALL BUT THE BOUNTY HUNTER DURGE, AND GENERAL GRIEVOUS.
AND ASAJJ VENTRESS? SHE SEEMED THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THEM ALL...
SHE WAS POWERFUL, BUT I KILLED HER. SHE WON'T THREATEN US AGAIN.
ALTHOUGH OBI-WAN WON'T ADMIT THAT SHE'S GONE.
YOU'RE ANGRY WITH HIM?
NO. JUST ... FRUSTRATED. HE IS A *GREAT* HERO, BUT WITH THE CONFEDERACY ON THE RUN, THE COUNCIL HAS ALLOWED HIM TO UNDERTAKE HIS OWN *PERSONAL* MISSION.
AND RATHER THAN DO SOMETHING *IMPORTANT*, HE'S WASTING HIS TIME SEARCHING FOR AN ENEMY WHO IS *DEAD*.
YOU'RE JUST WORRIED ABOUT HIM, WANDERING THE GALAXY ALONE.
YOU MIGHT BE A *JEDI KNIGHT* NOW, BUT HE'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR *MASTER*.
YES. AND MY *FRIEND*.


AS YOU KNOW, I'M LOYAL TO DOOKU AND THE CONFEDERACY. BUT, MY LOYALTY COMES WITH A PRICE.
I DON'T CARE. JUST TELL ME WHERE TO FIND VENTRESS.
I DON'T KNOW. BUT, AS PAYMENT FOR MY ALLEGIANCE, DOOKU HAS AGREED TO ELIMINATE ONE OF MY RIVALS.
GET TO THE POINT, XIST, OR WE GO BACK TO BRAWLING.
RELAX ... I'M CONNECTING THE NAVPOINTS FOR YOU.
CONNECT THEM MORE QUICKLY.


I CAN'T *CONFIRM* THAT VENTRESS IS ALIVE, BUT DOOKU IS SENDING HIS "BEST ASSASSIN" AFTER MY BUSINESS ASSOCIATE. THAT'S HOW HE DESCRIBED HIS AGENT -- AS HIS *"BEST ASSASSIN."* MAYBE IT'S VENTRESS... MAYBE IT'S NOT.
WHO IS THE TARGET?
A WEALTHY CORELLIAN NAMED DRAMA KORR.
WHERE WILL IT HAPPEN?
DRAMA IS ABOARD HER SPACE YACHT --
-- HEADING TOWARDS SOME MID-RIM RESORT WORLD CALLED MARAMERE.
WHEN SHE COMES OUT OF HYPER-SPACE IN A FEW DAYS, YOU'D BETTER BE THERE.
THE KILLER WILL.

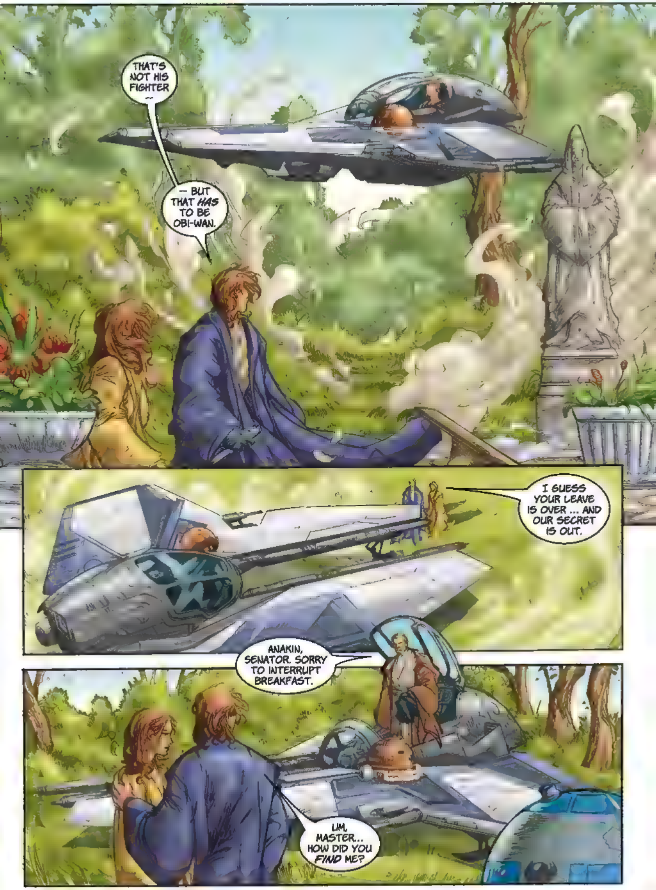

CORUSCANT.
WE CAN'T SPARE ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. NEARLY EVERY AVAILABLE JEDI IS BEING DIVERTED TO THE OUTER RIM. YOU AND ANAKIN HAVE BEEN ALLOWED A BRIEF RESPITE ONLY BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN ON THE FRONT LINES FOR NEARLY A YEAR --
-- BUT EVEN YOU'LL BE NEEDED SOON. I SUGGEST YOU REST.
AND YET COMMITTED TO YOUR SEARCH, YOU REMAIN, OBI-WAN?
YES, MASTER YODA. SHE'S STILL ALIVE, I CAN SENSE IT... AND I CAN BRING HER TO JUSTICE.
IF I DON'T ACT, SHE COULD DESTROY ENTIRE ARMIES -- WIPE OUT ENTIRE WORLDS...
WE'RE WELL AWARE OF THE THREAT POSED BY VENTRESS. YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE YOUR MISSION. BUT, BE CAREFUL, OBI-WAN...


THIS IS BUT A SMALL QUEST IN A LIFE FILLED WITH IMPORTANT JOURNEYS.
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.
YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM ABOUT YOUR CONDITION. YOU CAN BARELY STAND.
I'LL HEAL. BUT, YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...
I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH, AAYLA. THANK YOU FOR THE LOAN OF YOUR STARFIGHTER.
DON'T MENTION IT. WILL YOU NOW ASK ANAKIN FOR HELP?
YES, ALTHOUGH IT WON'T BE EASY TO CONVINCE HIM. HE STILL BELIEVES THAT HE KILLED VENTRESS ON CORUSCANT.
I'M SURE YOU'LL WIN HIM OVER. YOU ARE HIS MASTER.
"NOW THAT HE'S A JEDI KNIGHT, I HOPE HE STILL THINKS SO..."


NABOO.


YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IT, AREN'T YOU?
THE WAR, I MEAN.
NOT REALLY...
...ONLY A LITTLE...
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE RESTLESS HERE, WANTING TO GO BACK TO IT.
ME TOO. BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE, WITH YOU --
-- PART OF ME NEVER WANTS TO PICK UP MY LIGHTSABER AGAIN.


YOU DON'T MEAN THAT. YOU MIGHT BE MY *HUSBAND*, BUT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A *JEDI KNIGHT* FIRST.
NOT WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER, PALPATINE WILL BRING *PEACE*, AND THEN I CAN LIVE HERE. WITH YOU.
THAT'S A LITTLE ... *NAIVE*. I KNOW YOU BELIEVE IN PALPATINE, BUT HE'S JUST ONE MAN. THOUSANDS OF WORLDS ARE IN TURMOIL.
THEY'LL ALL FALL IN LINE ONCE THE CONFEDERACY HAS BEEN CRUSHED.
I'M NOT SO...
BBLE!
WHAT --
OH, NO...


THAT'S NOT HIS FIGHTER --
-- BUT THAT *HAS* TO BE OBI-WAN.
I GUESS YOUR LEAVE IS OVER ... AND OUR SECRET IS OUT.
ANAKIN, SENATOR. SORRY TO INTERRUPT BREAKFAST.
UM, MASTER... HOW DID YOU *FIND* ME?


ANAKIN, EVERY PADAWAN ON CORUSCANT KNOWS WHERE TO FIND YOU.
BUT I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO ON LEAVE. I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE I NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU'RE STILL CHASING VENTRESS, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR A WOMAN THAT I KILLED.
I HAVE EVIDENCE ...
NO! JUST RUMORS AND MYTHS! I KILLED HER.
OKAY, FORGET VENTRESS. DOOKU IS SENDING AN ASSASSIN -- HIS BEST ASSASSIN -- TO KILL A CORELLIAN MERCHANT I WANT TO STOP THAT MURDER.
WILL YOU HELP ME?
NO! YOU CAN CALL IT A RESCUE MISSION, BUT YOU'RE STILL CHASING A GHOST!
I'M GOING TO FOCUS ON THE LIVING.
ANAKIN...
HE NEEDS YOU.
EVERY OTHER JEDI I TRUST IS IN THE THICK OF THIS WAR.
YOU ARE MY ONLY OPTION.


I'M YOUR LAST CHOICE? NOW I REALLY WANT TO HELP...
I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE YOU AWAY..
ENOUGH. YOU ARE BOTH JEDI KNIGHTS. YOU HAVE BOTH SWORN AN OATH TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC.
IF THERE IS A MURDER YOU CAN PREVENT, YOU MUST TRY.
OKAY, FINE. YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I'LL HAVE TO GO TO THEED AND GET MY STARSHIP. SOME OF US RESPECT THE PLANET'S NO-FLY ZONES.
GOOD. I'LL SEND YOU COORDINATES IN THE KARTHAKK SYSTEM.
MEET ME THERE.
I'M SORRY...
YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION. I'M JUST AFRAID THAT IT WILL BE MONTHS BEFORE I SEE YOU AGAIN. IF I SEE YOU AGAIN.
I LOVE YOU.
JUST REMEMBER THAT, BECAUSE I'LL BE BACK.


CORUSCANT.
THE CONFEDERACY HAS PULLED BACK TO THE OUTER RIM. REPUBLIC FORCES HAVE STARTED A SERIES OF SIEGES AGAINST SEVERAL KEY WORLDS. ALDERAAN HAS DEALINGS WITH A NUMBER OF SYSTEMS THERE --
-- AND I NEED TO VIEW THE SITUATION FIRST-HAND.
PURPOSEFULLY GOING INTO A WAR ZONE, SENATOR --?
I WILL ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES, CHANCELLOR. I WILL HAVE A CADRE OF MY OWN TROOPS ACCOMPANYING ME --
-- BUT I NEED AN EXPERIENCED JEDI GENERAL AT MY SIDE. PREFERABLY, SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH THE SYSTEMS.
IF YOU INSIST ON GOING, GENERAL KENOBI HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE OUTER RIM.
HE'LL NEED YOUNG SKYWALKER'S AID, OF COURSE.
I'M AFRAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. ANAKIN IS ON LEAVE AND OBI-WAN IS TRACKING DOWN COMMANDER VENTRESS.


REALLY? I THOUGHT THE JEDI ORDER BELIEVED HER DEAD?
NOT YET KNOWN IS THE TRUTH.
THEN OBI-WAN SHOULD BE *ORDERED* TO THE OUTER RIM. THERE REALLY IS NO --
I'LL GO. I'M SURE NO ONE HERE DOUBTS THAT I CAN BE AT LEAST AS EFFECTIVE AS MASTER KENOBI?
OF COURSE NOT, MASTER WINDU. WE'RE ALL CONFIDENT THAT YOU'LL LEAD US TO VICTORY.
AND MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.


MARAMERE, THE KARTHAKK SECTOR.
WE'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR HOURS, MASTER...
AH, HE FINALLY SPEAKS! I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T TALKING TO ME.
I GOT BORED. I THOUGHT WE WERE HEADING INTO A BATTLE.
YOU SOUND DISAPPOINTED.
NO. JUST FRUSTRATED THAT I HAD TO LEAVE NABOO FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S MISSION. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THE COUNCIL TO GIVE ME MY *OWN* ASSIGNMENT, SOMETHING IMPORTANT --
-- BUT THE COUNCIL STILL THINKS OF ME AS YOUR PADAWAN.
GIVE THEM TIME. YOU *ARE* A JEDI KNIGHT NOW.
AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET A CHANCE TO PROVE IT...




SHE LOOKS INTACT... BUT I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY COMM-SIGNALS OR TRANSPONDER CODES...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TOO LATE.
NO... WAIT. THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING ON THE SHIP'S HULL! MUST BE...
"...DROIDS!"
I HAVE VISUAL CONFIRMATION, MASTER. DROIDS. LOTS OF THEM.
BDEW!
BDEW!
BDEW!
CAREFUL, ANAKIN! YOU'LL HIT THE LIFE SUPPORT GRID!


YOU STILL THINK ANYONE IS ALIVE IN THERE?
MY SCANNERS AREN'T PICKING UP ANYTHING!
SCANNERS CAN BE SCRAMBLED.
WE'LL HAVE TO SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY...


THE HANGAR CREW IS DEAD?
YES. BLASTER FIRE AND SEVERE BLUNT TRAUMA.
THIS IS THE WORK OF DROIDS. CAN YOU ADMIT THAT VENTRESS *ISN'T* RESPONSIBLE HERE?
SOMEONE IS LEADING THEM...
THE BRIDGE CREW GOT IT, TOO.


THE ATTACK MUST HAVE HAPPENED TOO FAST FOR THE CREW TO SEAL OFF THE COMMAND AREA...
MASTER, OVER HERE! I THINK I'VE FOUND YOUR MERCHANT...
HMM... SHE'S HOLDING SOMETHING IN HER HAND..
ANAKIN! WAIT!




UNNNGGH.
..THE CANOPY
IT AIN'T CRACKED
WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR --
-- YOU!
AAAAGH!


I'M GETTING TIRED OF AMBUSHING YOU, KENOBI.
SO AM I.
THEN LET'S MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T EVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
NICE. BUT WHEN ARE YOU GONNA REALIZE...
...TO ME, YOU ALL MOVE IN SLOW-MOTION.
KRAK!


MY MAS --
OBI-WAN IS A SLOW LEARNER.
DODGE THIS.
AAAAGH!


BLAST! THEY SET US UP .. DOOKU, XIST, DURGE...
WE WALKED RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP.
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? YOU'VE BEEN SHAKING DOWN EVERY CONFEDERACY THUG FROM CORUSCANT TO KASHYYYK!
DOOKU KNOWS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HER!
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT. SEVERAL TIMES. LET'S JUST GET...
YOU THINK THAT WAS GOING TO STOP ME?!?
I WAS ONCE BURIED ALIVE --
-- FOR SIXTY YEARS!


IF THAT DIDN'T KILL ME... IF THE SITH AND THE MANDALORIANS AND THE BLOODBOILERS OF KRAGIS COULDN'T KILL ME --
-- THEN YOU WILL NOT KILL ME!
BZZZNNK!
AAAAIIGH!!!
I HOPE THAT SHUTS HIM UP. .
NOT ON YOUR BEST DAY, MEAT-BAG.
CLICK!



WHA--
DURGE WIRED THE SHIP WITH EXPLOSIVES!
I'M GONNA FULFILL MY MISSION ANY WAY I CAN.
ANAKIN, KEEP HIM OCCUPIED!
ALL RIGHT --
-- BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DURGE HAD TO GET ABOARD THIS SHIP SOME-HOW --


...HIS SHIP'S LOGS MIGHT LEAD US BACK TO DOOKU OR VENTRESS.
SHE'S DEAD!
CAN YOU HANDLE HIM ALONE OR NOT?!?
OF COURSE I CAN!
I THINK...


MARAMERE, IN THE KARTHAKK SYSTEM.
BOOM!


DURGE...
...I SWEAR THIS IS GOING TO BE THE LAST TIME WE FACE EACH OTHER.
YOU STOLE MY LINE.


YOU'RE PROBABLY THE FASTEST --
-- JEDI I'VE KILLED.
AAAAGH!
AND I'VE KILLED --
-- A LOT OF JEDI.


ARTOO...
...LOCATE THE SECONDARY HANGARS.
BEEP-BEEP-BOOP.
LEVEL SIX. THANK YOU, ARTOO.
SIT TIGHT --
-- WE'LL BE LEAVING SOON.


WHAM!
WHAM!
KA-KLANG!
I DIDN'T BREAK YOU, DID I?
THAT COMES LATER...



BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
MORE EXPLOSIVES? YOU *ARE* INSANE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
TIMERS ARE RUNNING OUT, KID.
GOOD.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
HELL.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP




UUURRRR
KRACK!


WUNCH!
AH. I THINK YOU'LL DO.
TOUCH ME, AND MY MASTER WILL MURDER YOU.
WE'LL SEE.


AARRAGH!


UNGH...
RAAARGH!
VOICE BOX MELTED?
TOO BAD IT DIDN'T SILENCE YOU.
AAACK!
AAAAAGH!
AKKKKGH!

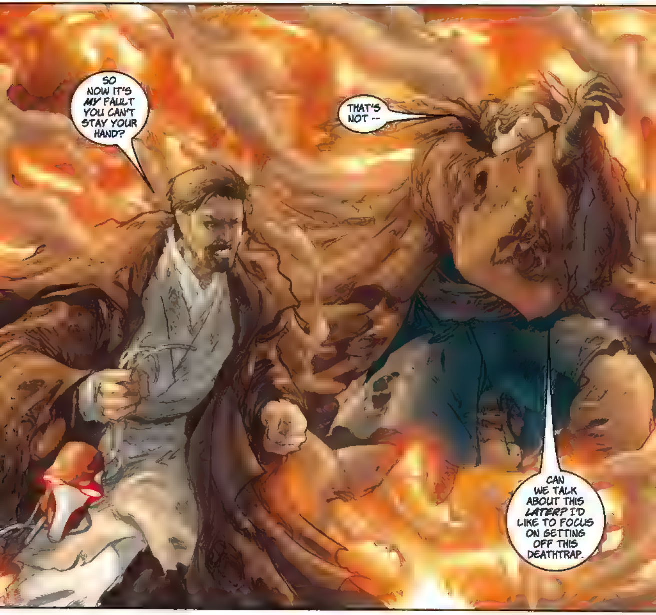

I CAN FEEL HOW WEAK YOU ARE. YOUR BODY MUST BE WORKING OVER-TIME TO HEAL ALL THAT DAMAGE.
URRR..
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT OFF THIS SHIP ..
...WITHOUT MY HELP.
FSSSHH...
ARRGH...!

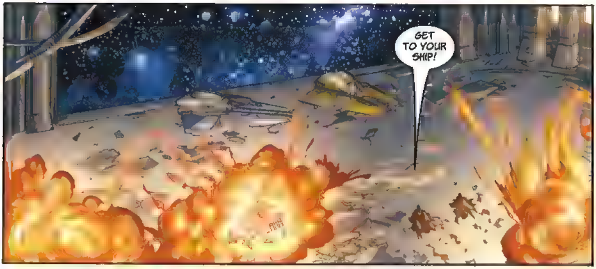

AAAAAAAGH!





I HOPE YOU BURN!
IF I MELT, YOU MELT.
MASTER! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...
WHERE IS DURGE?
DEAD.
YOU KILLED HIM?!?
WE NEEDED TO INTERROGATE HIM! HE COULD HAVE TOLD US WHERE TO FIND VENTRESS! OR DOOKU!
I HAD NO CHOICE! YOU LEFT ME TO FACE HIM ALONE!


SO NOW IT'S *MY* FAULT YOU CAN'T STAY YOUR HAND?
THAT'S NOT --
CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS *LATER?* I'D LIKE TO FOCUS ON GETTING OFF THIS DEATHTRAP.


GET TO YOUR SHIP!


HANG ON, ARTOO! WE'RE ALMOST CLEAR.
NOT QUITE.
VULTURE DROIDS!
DOOKU ISN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES...


WE'RE GROSSLY OUTNUMBERED HERE...
WE CAN HEAD TOWARDS THE PLANET.
WE CAN'T RISK CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. WE NEED TO DRAW THEM AWAY FROM THE SHIPPING LANES.
WE MIGHT NOT HAVE THE CHANCE ... THERE'S SOMETHING COMING OUT OF HYPERSPACE. SOMETHING BIG...
WHAT NOW?


THE CAVALRY, GENERAL.
ALPHA?!? YOU'VE BEEN REASSIGNED?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
JUST HEAD TO THE CRUISER. WE'LL COVER YOU.


AND, SHORTLY...
MASTERS. WELCOME ABOARD THE INTERVENTION. I TRUST WE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME?
NOT A SECOND TOO SOON, SENATOR ORGANA.
NOT THAT I'M UNGRATEFUL, BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WE RECEIVED A DISTRESS CALL FROM TWO JEDI GENERALS.
WE DIDN'T SEND A DISTRESS CALL...
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TELLING CORUSCANT. AND I DO HEAR THAT YOU COULD USE SOME HELP.
I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BAIL, BUT YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE ON THE BATTLE-FRONT...


JUST SAY "THANK YOU." WE NEED TO PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE. TOGETHER.
ANAKIN'S RIGHT. THANK YOU.
SO, WHAT IS OUR NEXT MOVE?
YOU'RE STILL INTENT ON LOOKING FOR VENTRESS?
REPUBLIC SPIES HAVE CONFIRMED SHE'S DEAD
?
THEY ARE WRONG. I KNOW SHE'S ALIVE!
DON'T WORRY. YOUR INSTINCTS WERE CORRECT, MASTER.
THE DROID WAS CARRYING AN ENCRYPTED TRAVEL LOG. DURGE DROPPED OFF ANOTHER AGENT JUST A WEEK AGO...


"...ON BOZ PITY.
"...THE GRAVEYARD WORLD!"


IN THE HANGAR OF THE REPUBLIC WARSHIP INTERVENTION.
ANAKIN, I CAN SENSE YOUR... FRUSTRATION.
HAH! LOOK WHO'S TALKING.
FOR TWO DAYS...
...ALL YOU'VE DONE IS PACE THE CORRIDORS.


I WAS HOPING A SPARRING SESSION WOULD DISTRACT YOU...
YOU SHOULD TAKE MY FOCUS AS AN EXAMPLE.
YOUR HEAD IS STILL ON NABOO.
AND YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT HER!


MASTER, YOU THINK YOU KNOW ME SO WELL.
AND YOU FORGET THAT I'M NO LONGER YOUR MASTER.
GENTLEMEN...
MASTER WINDU! WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE?
JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO.
I WAS WITH SENATOR ORGANA'S SURVEY OF THE SITUATION IN THE OUTER RIM --
-- UNTIL HE DEPARTED TO RENDEZVOUS WITH YOU.
HE CAME ON HIS OWN ACCORD...
I KNOW. AND I'M GLAD HE DID.
NOW, I BELIEVE WE HAVE A MISSION TO PLAN?


FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE SOME OF THE GREATEST MINDS IN THE JEDI ORDER AT OUR DISPOSAL...
AND OLD FRIENDS, ALL. THOUGH, IT HAS BEEN YEARS SINCE I STOOD IN THE SAME ROOM AS SOON BAYTS.
AND I SEE YOU MANAGED TO PULL ADI GALLIA AWAY FROM HER PIRATE FRIENDS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ALL HERE...
ARE YOU HAPPY NOW? THERE AREN'T ANY JEDI LEFT ON CORUSCANT BECAUSE OF YOU.


YOU GIVE YOUR MASTER TOO MUCH CREDIT, SKYWALKER --
WE'RE ALL ASSIGNED TO THE OUTER RIM CAMPAIGN. FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, YOU'RE HERE TO HELP US.
ONLY WE'RE NOT SEARCHING FOR VENTRESS. OUR SPIES STILL BELIEVE THAT SHE IS DEAD.
BUT AFTER YOU DISCOVERED THAT DURGE HAD VISITED BOZ PITY, MASTER WINDU HAD ME SCOUT THE SYSTEM.
BOZ PITY IS SURROUNDED BY A MAJOR BLOCKADE. OVER A HUNDRED WARSHIPS.
WE PLAN TO INVESTIGATE -- IF WE CAN GET PAST THAT BLOCKADE.
THE INTERVENTION HAS A FULL COMPLEMENT OF TROOPS AND FIGHTERS --
-- BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO TAKE ON A SEPARATIST ARMADA.
DON'T WORRY. IF THERE'S A HOLE IN THAT BLOCKADE, ODD BALL HERE WILL FIND IT.
ODD BALL? YOU'RE NAMING YOUR SQUAD MEMBERS?
YOU STARTED T, KID



IF YOU DON'T MIND, ALPHA --
-- I THINK I HAVE A *BETTER* CANDIDATE FOR PILOT.
HMM..?
MASTER, THIS IS CRAZY.
YOU'RE PUTTING EVERYONE'S LIFE INTO MY HANDS, AND I'M STILL NOT SURE WHY.
THE BLOCKADE IS LIKELY FOCUSING ALL OF THEIR SCANNERS *OUTWARD*...
YOU SIMPLY NEED TO DROP OUT OF HYPERSPACE BETWEEN THE BLOCKADE AND BOZ PITY.
MASTER TIIN'S FORCES CAN ATTACK THE BLOCKADE FROM BEHIND, WHILE THE REST OF US WILL BE ABLE TO LAND UNDETECTED.
ANAKIN'S CONCERNS ARE WELL-FOUNDED. AT THE SPEED WE'RE MOVING, HIS TIMING WILL NEED TO BE PERFECT. IF HE REACTS TOO EARLY, WE'LL BE SPOTTED AND GUNNED DOWN BY THE CIS SHIPS. TOO LATE --
AND WE'LL COLLIDE WITH THE PLANET'S MASS SHADOW --
-- WE'LL BE INSTANTLY *VAPORIZED.*


THERE'S NO DENYING IT'S A RISKY PLAN. BUT ANY OTHER PLAN HAS EVEN LESS CHANCE OF SUCCESS. MASTER TIIN, READY YOUR FIGHTERS.
OF COURSE. THOUGH I STILL THINK I SHOULD BE AT THE HELM.
DON'T WORRY, SENATOR.
THE GENERAL KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING...
ANAKIN, TRUST ME. REACH OUT WITH THE FORCE ... SENSE THE STARSHIPS, THE BLOCKADE...
EVERYONE HANG ON.


WE'VE HIT THE SYSTEM, BUT WE'RE MOVING TOO FAST FOR SCANNERS. WE'RE FLYING BLIND AND THE HYPERDRIVE IS ABOUT TO OVERRIDE ALL COMM --
SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE




--MUNICATIONS BACK. SCANNERS COMING UP... I THINK WE'RE GONNA MAKE --
WE'RE TOO CLOSE!
WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE PLANET'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL!
REET! REET!
MASTER TIIN! GET YOUR SQUADRON OFF THIS SHIP!
COPY GOLD SQUADRON, LET'S GO CREATE A DIVERSION.




ALL ESCAPE PODS ARE AWAY.
BRACE FOR ENTRY!


SORRY ABOUT THAT LANDING.
WE SURVIVED. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS. NICE WORK, ANAKIN.
REPAIR TEAMS ON FIRE CONTROL! EVERYONE ELSE, PREPARE FOR COMBAT!


WELCOME TO BOZ PITY...
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
I READ IT'S SOME SORT OF GRAVEYARD PLANET. BUT THE SIZE OF THE MEMORIALS...
THE PEOPLE OF THIS SYSTEM WERE GIANTS. WE THINK.
MASTER TIIN, WE'VE LANDED. WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?
WE'RE DRAWING THE ENEMY'S ATTENTION...

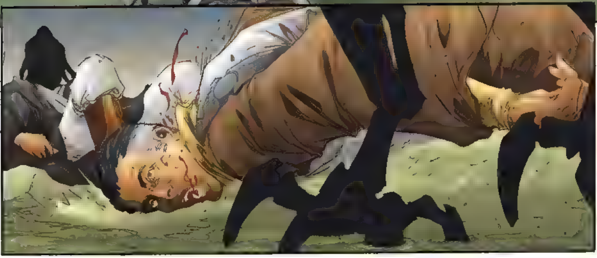


...BUT WE CAN'T HOLD THEM OFF INDEFINITELY.
I SUGGEST YOU FIND YOUR OBJECTIVE -- QUICKLY.
I'M CERTAIN VENTRESS IS HERE.
THIS CONCENTRATION OF SEPARATIST FORCES SUGGESTS THE PRESENCE OF MORE THAN JUST COMMANDER VENTRESS -- IF SHE INDEED STILL LIVES.
IF WE CAN CAPTURE THE CONFEDERACY LEADERSHIP, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO END THIS WAR.
SCOUTS FROM THE ESCAPE PODS HAVE ALREADY LOCATED THE CONFEDERACY'S BASE --
-- JUST OVER THE NEXT RIDGE. BUT THEY'VE BEEN ENGAGED. WE'VE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.


FALL BACK! FALL BACK!
SORRY, COMMANDER. GENERAL WINDU WOULD LIKE TO RESCIND THAT ORDER.
LET'S ATTACK, INSTEAD.


THE ENTRANCE TO THEIR BASE --
-- WE NEED TO GET IT SECURED!
MASTER BAYTS AND I CAN HANDLE THAT.
MASTER GALLIA -- LOOK OUT!
WHAT IS IT, BAYTS -- ?


UGH!
UKK!




IT'S GENERAL GRIEVOUS!
EVERYONE REGROUP! WHERE'S OBI-WAN?!?
I DON'T KNOW! WE GOT SEPARATED!


BY THE FORCE...


BOZ PITY, C.I.S. MEDICAL CENTER.
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
YOU SPEAK AS IF WE HAVE TRANSFORMED VENTRESS AGAINST HER WILL...
DOOKU!


DON'T INSULT ME. I'VE LEARNED OF VENTRESS' PAST.
SHE IS *MISLED*, NOT EVIL.
YOU COULD HAVE TAUGHT HER COMPASSION AND CONTROL!
INSTEAD, YOU HAVE PREYED UPON HER WEAKNESSES, FILLED HER FULL OF HATE...
WHEN I FIRST FOUND HER, VENTRESS WAS ALREADY CONSUMED BY HATRED. NOT JUST FOR THE JEDI ORDER, BUT FOR ALL LIFE ITSELF, I THINK.
IT WAS THIS HATRED THAT KEPT HER ALIVE AFTER HER BATTLE WITH ANAKIN ON CORUSCANT. IT IS THE SOURCE OF HER STRENGTH AND POWER. AND SHE KNOWS IT.
EVEN NOW, AS HER RAVAGED BODY IS BEING REPAIRED--
--I CAN FEEL THE HATE BURNING INSIDE HER.
I SENSE ONLY FEAR AND DESPAIR, DOOKU.
AAAA--


-- AAAIGH!
KA-KRACK!
THOK!
DON'T YOU DEIGN TO PITY ME, KENOBI!
I AM FEAR. I AM THE QUEEN OF A BLOOD-SOAKED PLANET AND AN ARCHITECT OF GENOCIDE. I HAVE HELPED TO CRACK THE GALAXY IN HALF WITH THIS WAR AND CONQUERED EVERY ENEMY I HAVE EVER FACED -- INCLUDING DEATH.
ALL EXCEPT FOR YOU.
FINISH HIM, VENTRESS.


SQUAD SEVEN --
-- HOLD YOUR GROUND!
DO NOT BACK DOWN, OR WE *WILL* BE BURIED HERE!
EVASIVE ACT --
GRIEVOUS!


ZZZT!
AAGGGH!

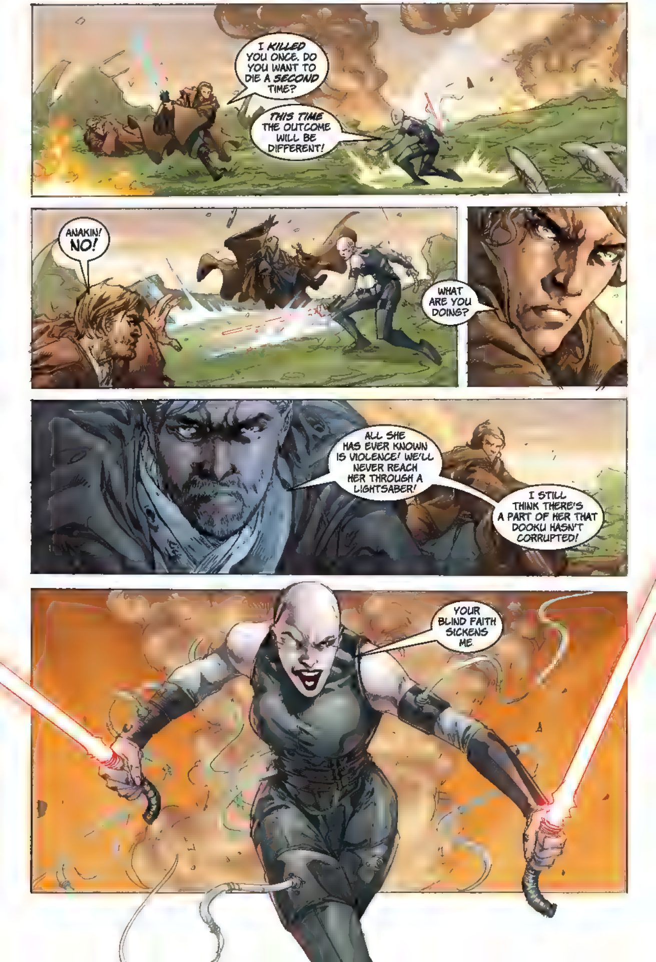

GENERAL GRIEVOUS, YOUR RAMPAGE ENDS NOW!
AAAAGGGHHH!
YOU CAN TRY TO STOP ME --
-- BUT I WAS BUILT TO KILL YOUR KIND.
YOU'D BETTER HOPE THEY GAVE YOU DEFLECTOR SHIELDS.
NO. JUST EXTRA ARMS.
URK --


AKKK..
ADI!
YOU'RE TOO LATE. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO FOR HER.
I CAN MAKE SURE YOU DON'T KILL AGAIN.
HAH!



HUH...?
KAAA-BOOM!
ALPHA! HANG ON!
HE'S IN BAD SHAPE...
...THE WOUND GOES ALL THE WAY THROUGH... IF HIS SPINE IS DAMAGED...
I'LL NEVER WALK AGAIN...
...BUT MY HANDS WORK FINE.
PATCH ME UP BEFORE I BLEED TO DEATH, THEN GIVE ME A GUN.


HE'LL LIVE.
I HOPE WE CAN SAY THE SAME ABOUT OBI-WAN... THE CONFEDERACY BASE HAS BEEN HIT, WITH YOUR MASTER TRAPPED INSIDE...
KRASH!
I THINK WE JUST FOUND HIM...
OBI-WAN!
DOOKU... HE'S HERE...
...BUT YOU DIDN'T FIND VENTRESS? I REALLY KILLED HER?
ANAKIN...
THE ARROGANT PUP TENDS TO HIS WOUNDED MASTER. I'LL SKIN YOU BOTH!


I KILLED YOU ONCE. DO YOU WANT TO DIE A SECOND TIME?
THIS TIME THE OUTCOME WILL BE DIFFERENT!
ANAKIN! NO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ALL SHE HAS EVER KNOWN IS VIOLENCE! WE'LL NEVER REACH HER THROUGH A LIGHTSABER!
I STILL THINK THERE'S A PART OF HER THAT DOOKU HASN'T CORRUPTED!
YOUR BLIND FAITH SICKENS ME.


NO!
FSSAASHH!
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE ALONE ANY LONGER!
VENTRESS! LISTEN TO ME. WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU.
YOU'LL NEVER CONVERT ME TO YOUR CAUSE!
MY LOYALTY IS TO COUNT DOOKU AND NONE OTHER!
"BUT WHERE DOES HIS LOYALTY LIE, VENTRESS?"
LOCATE GRIEVOUS AND VENTRESS, IF THEY STILL LIVE. KILL ANY CLONES YOU ENCOUNTER, BUT LEAVE THE JEDI TO ME.


DOOKU! THIS WAR ENDS HERE!
AH, MASTER WINDU. STILL SO CONFI-DENT THAT ONE MAN CAN CHANGE THE GALAXY?
I AM JUST ONE COG --
-- IN A MASSIVE WAR MACHINE.
EVEN IF YOU KILL ME --
-- THE FIGHTING AND DEATH WILL CONTINUE.
OF COURSE, YOU WON'T KILL ME.
NOT TODAY


WHA -- ?!
YOU CAN'T THINK THESE DROIDS WILL STOP ME...
NO --
OOF!
-- BUT THEY WILL KEEP YOU OCCUPIED WHILE I MAKE MY DEPARTURE.
SIR --
-- WE HAVE LOCATED AND RECOVERED GENERAL GRIEVOUS. HE LIVES.

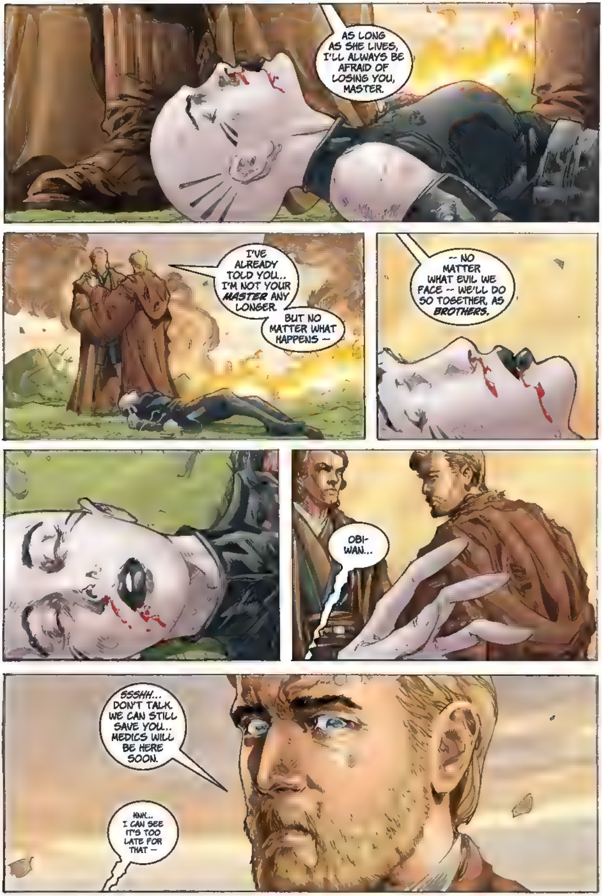

GOOD. TAKE HIM TO THE ESCAPE SHUTTLE.
HE COST TOO MUCH TO LET HIM GO TO WASTE.
YOU SEE! DOOKU FLEES WITHOUT YOU! HE WOULD LEAVE YOU HERE TO DIE!
LIAR!


MASTER!
MASTER!
I HAVE VISUAL CONFIRMATION. COMMANDER VENTRESS IS ALIVE.
SHE'LL NEVER REACH US IN TIME. THE JEDI ARE ALREADY REGROUP-ING.
SHE HAS FAILED ME AT EVERY TURN. BEFORE SHE BECOMES A CAPTIVE OF THE REPUBLIC --
-- FINISH HER.
MASTER --
AAGH!

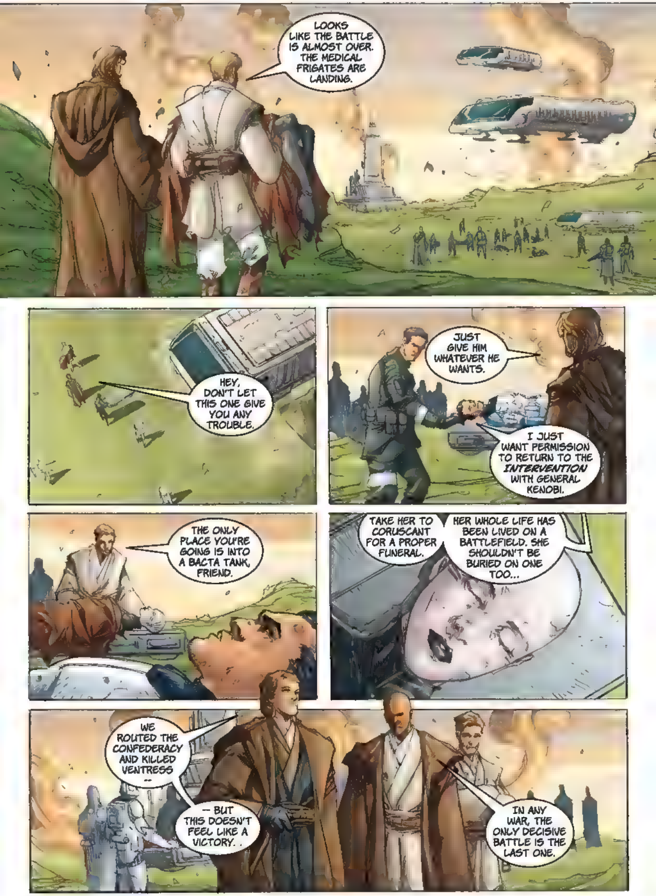

VENTRESS!
LEAVE HER!
WE NEED TO STOP DOOKU!
I WON'T ABANDON HER!
YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND! BUT DON'T WORRY, I CAN TAKE DOOKU *MYSELF*.
ANAKIN! IMAGINE WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE BECOME IF --
-- INSTEAD OF QUI-GON, THAT *OTHER SITH* HAD FOUND YOU ON TATOOINE!
WHO WOULD YOU BE NOW?
HER FATE COULD HAVE EASILY BEEN YOURS, ANAKIN. WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
BLAST...


HELP ME SAVE HER...
SHE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION.
I'LL TRY TO LOCATE A MEDIC...
YOU...
...YOU DROVE HIM... AWAY...
MASTER!


NO!
...NO...
ANAKIN! WHAT HAVE YOU...
...DONE...
I'M SORRY... I SAW THE FLASH OF METAL ... SHE WAS GOING TO KILL YOU...
I ... I DIDN'T SEE --
-- SHE REALLY NEVER STOPPED WANTING TO KILL ME, NOT FOR A MOMENT.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW THINGS CLEARLY.
NO. I WAS BEING SELFISH. I STRUCK HER DOWN OUT OF FEAR...


AS LONG AS SHE LIVES, I'LL ALWAYS BE AFRAID OF LOSING YOU, MASTER.
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU.. I'M NOT YOUR *MASTER* ANY LONGER.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS --
-- NO MATTER WHAT EVIL WE FACE -- WE'LL DO SO TOGETHER, AS *BROTHERS*.
OBI-WAN...
SSSHH... DON'T TALK. WE CAN STILL SAVE YOU.. MEDICS WILL BE HERE SOON.
HNH... I CAN SEE IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT --


-- THE PITY IS GONE FROM YOUR EYES.
YES... I KNOW YOU'LL BE ONE WITH THE FORCE SOON. FINALLY AT PEACE.
WATCH THE CENTER OF THE GALAXY...
...IT IS THE KEY TO VICTORY... DEFEND CORUSCANT FROM DOOKU.
I THOUGHT YOU'D USE YOUR DYING BREATH TO CURSE US.
PERHAPS I HAVE...
...OR PERHAPS I JUST ...HATE DOOKU MORE THAN I HATE YOU...
OR MAYBE... YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ME... ALL ALONG...


LOOKS LIKE THE BATTLE IS ALMOST OVER. THE MEDICAL FRIGATES ARE LANDING.
HEY, DON'T LET THIS ONE GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE.
JUST GIVE HIM WHATEVER HE WANTS.
I JUST WANT PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THE *INTERVENTION* WITH GENERAL KENOBI.
THE ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GOING IS INTO A BACTA TANK, FRIEND.
TAKE HER TO CORUSCANT FOR A PROPER FUNERAL.
HER WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN LIVED ON A BATTLEFIELD. SHE SHOULDN'T BE BURIED ON ONE TOO...
WE ROUTED THE CONFEDERACY AND KILLED VENTRESS --
-- BUT THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A VICTORY. .
IN ANY WAR, THE ONLY DECISIVE BATTLE IS THE LAST ONE.


EPILOGUE:
THE MEDICAL FRIGATE BRIGHT FLIGHT. TWO DAYS AFTER THE BATTLE OF BOZ PITY.
HMM. LIFE SUPPORT IS RUNNING A LITTLE HOT...
IT'S JUST OVERTAXED. I DON'T THINK WE'VE EVER HAD THIS MANY BACTA TANKS RUNNING AT ONCE.
FSSHH--
WHO -- HOW?!?
SITH MEDITATION TECHNIQUES SLOWED MY FUNCTIONS.
THE FORCE DID THE REST.
YOU WON'T KILL US...?
NO. I STILL HAVE WOUNDS TO BE TREATED.
BUT YOU WILL CHANGE COURSE.
I'LL CHANGE COURSE. FOR WHERE?
JUST FAR AWAY.
FAR FROM THE JEDI, FROM THIS WAR, FROM COUNT DOOKU...
JUST FLY AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN.
END



illustration by **BRIAN CHING** and **BRAD ANDERSON**



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CLONE WARS

Amidst the chaos of war, the only thing you can count on is the friend by your side. Few know this better than Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, once Master and Padawan, now two Jedi Knights fighting side by side in the seemingly endless struggle to bring the Separatist leaders to justice and restore peace to the galaxy.

WHEN THEY WERE BROTHERS

The Clone Wars have taken their toll on the galaxy. Millions have died, but there is one death Obi-Wan cannot bring himself to accept. Consumed by the belief that the Dark Jedi Asajj Ventress still lives, Obi-Wan has temporarily forsaken his duties and recruited Anakin in a desperate hunt for the Separatist Commander. Their journey is perilous—and its destination far darker, and more dangerous, than either could have imagined.



LUCAS BOOKS
DARK HORSE BOOKS